

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION
COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE
SECURITY MATTER - C

DATE: 4/20/51

On March 27, 1951 [REDACTED] of Los Angeles, was interviewed by SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] during which [REDACTED] recalled NAT KING COLE as an old friend and contact of CP member [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that he had recently seen KING COLE and talked with him briefly; that he, [REDACTED] feels positive COLE would be amenable to discussing his CP membership and activities with a Bureau agent. [REDACTED] recalled that sometime in the early 1940's [REDACTED] and one [REDACTED] (phonetic) brought COLE to [REDACTED] and talked with him regarding receiving instruction in the subject of Marxism. It was decided, however, that [REDACTED] should not be the one to give COLE such instruction because [REDACTED] is colored. NAT KING COLE himself is also colored, although according to [REDACTED] he was at that time, and still is, associating almost exclusively with white "progressives".

For the Bureau's information, NAT KING COLE is the well known Negro musician who lives in Los Angeles and who recently received considerable mention in the press due to income tax difficulties with the Internal Revenue Department, which seized COLE's home for payment of back taxes due the Government. It has been since reported in the press, however, that COLE has recovered his property by making some sort of an arrangement for the payment of these taxes.

From information furnished this office in 1945 by [REDACTED] it appears that COLE [REDACTED] were members of the Communist Party and the Communist Political Association during that period, probably attached to the cultural groups in Hollywood. Our files indicate, however, that COLE was on tour a considerable part of the time and no particular Communist activity on his part has been reported.

It is possible that COLE may have dropped out of the CP movement since that period and, as indicated by [REDACTED] above, might be willing to discuss his past affiliation with representatives of this Bureau. If so, he might be able to

MMB:WAB
100-29226

RECORDED - 53
INDEXED - 53

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261 APR 29 1963

LA 100-29226


furnish pertinent information, depending upon the length of the period of his affiliation and the degree of activity on his part.

It is suggested that the Bureau might deem it desirable to arrange such an interview with COLE. However, no such step is being taken unless the Bureau authorizes it.

b7C

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor  Room 1262

Subj: Nat King Cole

☒ Exact Spelling Searchers
☐ All References Initial h
☒ Subversive Ref. Date 4-30
☐ Main File
☐ Restricted to Locality of recall 2

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

100-379380 Mail
Nat

100-340922-189, p39;

101-10170-A People's World 3-2-46

100-356137-589, p10, 12;

100-138754-122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

100-356137-589, p10, 12;

100-135-26-18, p23; 187

100-3-25-1400, p10;

King

100-68820

100-379380 Mail

100-36315-219,


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SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor  Room 1262

Subj: King Cole

☒ Exact Spelling Searchers
☐ All References Initial h
☒ Subversive Ref. Date 4-30
☐ Main File
☐ Restricted to Locality of

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

NT 100-31172-39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

100-32650-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

100-135-26-18, p23;

101-10170-A People's World 3-2-46

100-138754-545, p7, 8; same

100-356137-545, 589, p10, 12;

100-3-25-1530, p67;

100-135-26-A People's World 3-1-47

100-75139-15,

100-182468-3,

100-68820-317, 365, 44, 39, 43,

C-2

Initialed

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SAC, Los Angeles

May 21, 1951

Director, FBI

NAT KING COLE
SECURITY MATTER - C
Your file 100-29226

RECORDED - 57 Bureau file 100-379380 -

01-10/1
#3

Reurlet dated April 20, 1951.

Before further consideration will be given to allowing your Office to contact Cole, the Bureau would like to have the benefit of your reasons why [redacted] believed that Cole would be receptive to an interview by this Bureau. If you do not have this information available, you should recontact [redacted] for such and thereafter advise the Bureau.

For your information, Bureau files reflect several references to Cole's activities in the Communist Party; however, all of these references have been furnished to the Bureau by your Office.

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Cle. Room _____
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65 MAY 24 1951

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[Signature]
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, *Los Angeles* (Your file) *100 - 29226* DATE: *10/1/51*
 FROM : Director, FBI *100 - 379380*
 SUBJECT: *hat King case*
SM-C *fill*

- () The deadline in this case has passed and the Bureau has not received a report. You are instructed to immediately submit a report. In the event a report has been submitted, you should make a notation of the date on which it was submitted on this letter and return it to the Bureau.

Report submitted *100 - 277 - 10 -*
 NOT RECORDED

Report will be submitted *10 OCT 10 1951*

Reason for delay *will be handled as soon as possible being given preferred attention*

- () Advise Bureau re status of this case. *52897 SP387J/RW*
 () Advise Bureau when report may be expected.
 () Surep immediately.

(Place your reply on this form and return to the Bureau. Note on the top serial in the case file the receipt and acknowledgment of this communication.)

58 OCT 1 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-379380)

DATE: October 13, 1951

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES

SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE
SECURITY MATTER - C

Rebulet dated May 21, 1951.

██████████ former Negro CP member some years ago and the original informant in this matter, has been reinterviewed in detail concerning his knowledge of NAT KING COLE, and why he feels that COLE might be receptive to an interview by an agent of the Bureau. b7C b7D

██████████ furnished the same information regarding his relationship with COLE as set out in mylet of April 20 last, and he could furnish no reason whatever, other than his guess or opinion, that COLE might willingly furnish any information to the Bureau. As a matter of fact, ██████████ admitted that he had not even seen or been in contact with COLE for several years since ██████████ himself quit the CP. b7C b7D

As I indicated in mylet of April 20 last, NAT KING COLE appears to have been a member of the CP in Los Angeles in 1945, but our files fail to indicate that he was particularly active therein.

Unless additional information is received from other available sources, therefore, to indicate that COLE would be receptive to an interview and could furnish information of value, no attempt to contact him is being made UACB.

- CLOSED -

MMB:msb
100-29226ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-28-97 BY SP3BJT/PW

RECORDED - 50

INDEXED - 50

EX-18

OCT 26 1951

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAILED

FEB 13 1955

NAME CHECK

February 16, 1955

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE
known as Nat King Cole
Born: March 17, 1919
Montgomery, Alabama

NATHANIEL Adams Cole - Summary

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reflect the following information which may relate to the subject of your name check request.

A confidential informant of known reliability advised in 1945 that Nat Cole, who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time.

(100-356137-589pg10; [REDACTED])

A confidential informant of known reliability advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council).

[REDACTED] National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a Communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace arranged by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26, and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950.

The Communist Political Association has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

Tolson _____
Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Orig. to State
Req. rec'd: 2-1-55

INDEXED - 28

RECORDED - 28

(4)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP3 BTJ/SCJ

ON 5-29-97

FEB 17 1955

FEB 24 1955

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(u) [initials]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is for your use and is not to be disseminated outside of your agency.

- 2 -
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

- 4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Cole Nathaniel Adams

Supervisor _____ Room _____

R# 100 Date 2-2-99 Searcher Initial 199

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Cole, Nat King100-379380Nat100-356137-589 p 10, 12;695;100-135 Sub 26 -181 p 23;61-10170 Sub A -3 246100-3-25-1400 p 61100-135 Sub 26 -187100-340922 -189 p 39100-1357King100-31172 -117 p 57, 59;62-75 137 -1562-36315 -21994-1 Sub 10 386 -4 R 99

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

- 4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Cole, Nathaniel AdamsSupervisor Cole Nat King Room _____R# 172 Date 2-2 Searcher Initial 199

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

King100-182468-3100-3-25-1530 p 67100-135 Sub 26 -181 p 23100-135-26-A -2-1-47100-326 Sub 50 -5 p 16;4; 2; V;100-31172 -117 p 57, 59;86 p 47, 51, 55;100-31172-39100-128754 -5-45 p 28;

MAILED

JUN 15 1956

NAME CHECK

12837

June 12, 1956

Nathaniel Adam Cole
Summary

NATHANIEL ADAM COLE
also known as:
Nat King Cole
Born: March 17, 1919
Montgomery, Alabama

No investigation pertinent to your inquiry has been conducted by the FBI concerning the captioned individual. However, the files of this Bureau reflect the following information which may relate to the subject of your name check request.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Nat Cole, who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry, and

that time, were then members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood. (100-356137-589) pg. 10

source -

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council). (100-356137-589- source -

The National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities, Review of the Scientific and Culture Conference for World Peace arranged by the National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions and held in New York City on March 25, 26, and 27, 1949, House Report No. 1954, April 26, 1950.

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Boardman _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
 Sizoo _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

Orig. & One to Secret Service

Reg. rec'd 5/24/56

(4)

(62-60527-42205)

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INDEXED-75

EX-109

CONFIDENTIAL

68 JUN 22 1956

SEE REFERENCE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

12898

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4-22b . (11-23-55)

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Cole, Nathaniel Adams

R# 91 Date 5/25 Searcher Number 1122

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

utd 62-60527 Sum. 1/55

Nathaniel Adams (var)

100-379380 I

62-60527-42205 Sum.

3/21/55

100-379380-3 Sum. 2/16/55

Nat King

105-45763-5 R14

Nat

50-82877 BY SP3 BTJ/ru

26-118323

100-338634-18 R74

61-3176-A - Wash Post

X T.H. 4/24/56

100-135-4-138

King Cole

NR 62-75147-41-66 p23

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/28/97 BY SP3 BTJ/ru

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Justice In The Cole Case

Conviction of four men in Recorder's Court on charges growing out of the attack last week on singer Nat (King) Cole in Municipal Auditorium should give the world notice that Birmingham does not tolerate that kind of despicable business.

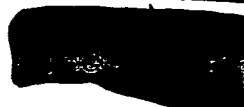
Each of the four men was sentenced to 180 days in jail and fines also were assessed.

Evidence developed by police indicates

that a large scale attack on the Negro singer was planned but that the majority of those involved apparently backed out, leaving only a small group to make the attempt.

Members of the Police Department especially are to be praised for their work in breaking up this attack and in helping to bring the men accused to justice.

b7C



[Handwritten signatures and initials] b7

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama
April 19, 1956
Final Edition
Editorial
JAMES E. MILLS - Editor.

RACON.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-28-77 BY SP3BTJ/PW

100-17737
RECEIVED
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58 MAY 2 1956

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mason	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

ba
~~_____~~
67C

Resumes Monday

Four go on trial, attack details told

The slow-moving trial of four men accused in an assault on Negro Singer Nat (King) Cole resumes in Re-Order's Court Monday morning.

Only one witness testified after the proceeding got under way Friday in Judge Ralph Parker's court. Fifteen were sworn in.



OFFICER H. E. SCHATZ

First witness

POLICE OFFICER H. E. Schatz, first to reach the Negro entertainer when he was felled on the stage of Municipal Auditorium last Tuesday night, told the court how police dragged two men forcibly out of the building after the assault.

Schatz testified he and Officer A. A. Norman knocked the two men into the orchestra pit when one tried to drag Cole off the stage.

Schatz's testimony mainly concerned two men not yet on trial. The four being tried are accused of a variety of misdemeanors in connection with the assault.

JUDGE PARKER ordered the trial to begin over vigorous defense objections. He overruled motions by Defense Atty. Rod-erick Beddow for a two-week continuance and separate trials for the four defendants.

Beddow contended the four were "dissasociated from each other."

Police investigators have charged that the assault was a conspiracy in which 150 men were to take part.

Another delay of more than an hour came when Judge Parker ordered the prosecution to pre-pare separate warrants in each case. He pointed out that the de-fendants could be found guilty of only one charge contained in a warrant.

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama
April 14, 1956
(Front Page)

RACON;
IS-X.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-28-97 BY SP3BTJ/KW

NOTED DDD
191 APR 26 1956

63 APR 27 1956

One charge against each of three of the defendants was dropped in the proceedings.

ALL SIX MEN, the four now on trial and the two facing preliminary hearing on felony counts, are members of the North Alabama Citizens Council, a strongly pro-segregation organization.

The defendants and the charges against them now are:

Mike Fox, 36, conspiracy to commit a breach of the peace and conspiracy to commit assault and battery (one warrant).

Edgar Leo Vinson, 25, disorderly conduct and conspiracy to commit assault and battery.

Orliss Wade Clevenger, 18, disorderly conduct, carrying a concealed weapon and conspiracy to commit assault and battery.

Jesse W. Mabry, 43, disorderly conduct, refusal to obey the lawful command of an officer and conspiracy to commit a breach of the peace.

All but Mabry are from Anniston. Mabry, who lives at 9600 West-blvd, Roebuck, is associate editor of The Southerner, a publication of the North Alabama Citizens Council.

OFFICER SCHATZ said he was at the east end of the Auditorium stage about 8:50 p.m. Tuesday night when he saw Willie Robert Vinson, 23, and Kenneth Adams, 25, running down the east aisle.

W. R. Vinson and Adams, also of Anniston, face preliminary hearing April 20 on charges of assault with intent to murder. Adams is an official of the Anniston White Citizens Council.

Schatz testified W. R. Vinson dived on stage and grabbed Cole by his legs, dragging him down. Adams dived over Vinson's shoulders, the witness said.

"I went over and knocked Vinson from his hold. About that time Officer A. A. Norman grabbed Adams. Adams jerked like he was going to run and I knocked him off the stage. Norman went with him. We arrested Vinson and Adams," Schatz said.

SCHATZ SAID he saw Mabry, who followed the officers out, asking, "why we had the white boys under arrest when we ought to be in the Auditorium beating the Negro."

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *fw*

DATE: March 17, 1955

FROM : *b7C*
13
*12*SUBJECT: NAT KING COLE *O*
12

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE INTELLIGENCE FILE

Tolson ✓
Boardman ✓
Belmont ✓
Harbo ✓
Mohr ✓
Parsons ✓
Rosen ✓
Tamm ✓
 Sizoo ✓
 Winterrowd ✓
Tele. Room ✓
 Holloman ✓
 Gandy ✓

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Salt Lake City by letter 3-10-55 reported that criminal informant [REDACTED] advised on 2-21-55 that [REDACTED] Las Vegas, Nevada, [REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED] NAT KING COLE is appearing as the star in the Copa Room at the Sands [REDACTED]

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b7D

[REDACTED]

NAT KING COLE discontinued his engagement at the Sands because "his mother was seriously ill with cancer in Chicago". [REDACTED]

b7C

The above is for your information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-28-97 BY SP3 BTJ/Rud

100-371380-
NOT RECORDED
12 MAR 124 1955

CB:slb
(6)

12 MAR 23 1955

71 MAR 26 1955

GIR 2

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: February 25, 1957

FROM : [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: NATHANIEL ADAM COLE, also known as
NAT KING COLE
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

NATHANIEL ADAM COLE - [REDACTED]

PURPOSE:

To set forth pertinent information in Bufiles re Nat King Cole in accordance with your request.

DETAILS:

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Cole, however, files reflect the following salient information.

b7C
b7D A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Nat King Cole [REDACTED] were then members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood. (100-356137-589, page 10) u

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the music division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council). (100-356137-589, page 12)

The National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

1-6 A Salt Lake City criminal informant advised Bureau Agents on February 21, 1955, that [REDACTED] Las Vegas, Nevada, informed him, the informant, that [REDACTED]

b7C
b7D [REDACTED] Nat King Cole was appearing at the hotel in the Copa Room as the star [REDACTED]

FJH:jh

(5) MAR 12 1957

RECORDED - 96

INDEXED - 96

2 MAR 5 1957

(over)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-28-97 BY SP3BTD

Tolson —
Nichols —
Boardman —
Belmont —
Mohr —
Parsons —
Rosen —
Tamm —
Trotter —
Nease —
Winterrowd —
Tele. Room —
Holloman —
Gandy —

b7C

[REDACTED] to Nichols memorandum

February 25, 1957

b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nat King Cole discontinued his engagement at the Sands for personal reasons.

b7C

[REDACTED]
(62-75147-44-591)

It will be recalled that in April, 1956, while appearing in Birmingham, Alabama, Cole was attacked by a group of men, reportedly members of the North Alabama Citizens Council. The attack took place in Municipal Auditorium and the assailants were prosecuted in local court and sentenced to one hundred eighty days in jail. (100-379380) }

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

✓



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

301 Continental Bank Building
Salt Lake City 1, Utah

October 8, 1957

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Harbo ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Mr. Egan ✓
Mr. Gurnea ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Jones ✓
Mr. Mumford ✓
Mr. Quinn ✓
Mr. Nease ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL

Dear Mr. Hoover:

b7C While in Las Vegas, Nevada, last week, I had lunch with [REDACTED]. He said his most pressing problem at the moment is Nat King Cole, who is presently the featured attraction at the Sands Hotel.

b7C By way of background, traditionally the "Strip" hotels have been strictly segregated so far as colored persons are concerned. Recently, however, top flight colored entertainers have been allowed to stay at the hotel where they were performing. These performers include Cole, [REDACTED] and Pearl Bailey.

b7C [REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED]

b7C The problem for [REDACTED] is complaints have been received concerning Cole's actions. One citizen insists the Sands Hotel be closed for permitting such

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-18-77 BY SP3 BTJ/RW

OCT 11 1957

67 NOV 18 1957

b7C activity. This individual personally called at all "Strip" hotels to inquire whether they would accept colored guests. The Sands, Flamingo and Riviera Hotels all stated they would register any presentable person, regardless of color. All other hotels said they would refuse to register colored persons. [REDACTED] said he would keep me advised of developments in this matter.

b7C In Reno the newest hotel is the Holiday. It is an extremely modern building and was built by the Dollar Steamship family. The Hotel had slot machines but was losing money until recently purchased by a syndicate headed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a close personal friend of Bing Crosby.

Under [REDACTED] a casino with all types of gambling was placed in the Hotel. To stimulate business they have instituted a contest called "In 80 Days, Around the World." Each jackpot winner receives a chance on a nightly drawing, and the winner of each nightly drawing is entitled to a chance during the final drawing. Needless to say, the grand prize is a first class trip for two around the world. To feature this contest, a large replica of the balloon used in the motion picture of a similar name has been placed in front of the Hotel.

I have insisted to the Agents at both Las Vegas and Reno that materially increased informant coverage is necessary, and you can be sure I will personally follow this important matter.

Respectfully,



W. MARK FELT

Special Agent in Charge

1 - [REDACTED] 67C

SAC, Los Angeles
EX 109 REC- 27
Director, FBI (100-379350) - 7

May 25, 1959

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE
SECURITY MATTER - C

Reurlet 5-11-59 and Washington Field Office
letter 4-27-59.

For your information the subject is
also known as Nat King Cole, the Negro entertainer.

Cole has never been the subject of
investigation by the Bureau and no action is desired
of your office or Washington Field Office in this
matter.

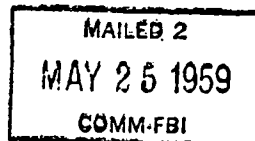
1 - Washington Field (100-35968)

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Washington Field Office letter shows Cole was
issued passport 3-11-59 and information concerning this
passport was referred to WFO by passport office as
information in State Department files indicated Bureau
has or has had interest in Cole. WFO has not reviewed
Cole's file and advised Los Angeles it would not do so
unless specifically requested by Los Angeles. Los Angeles
advised it has no information identifiable with
Nathaniel Adams Cole and requested Bureau to search
his name and advise Los Angeles or other interested
offices if further action is desired. Cole was
possible member of Communist Party 1945 and in 1949 was member
of the Music Division of Southern California Chapter of
Arts, Sciences and Professions Council. Bureau has no
interest in this case; however, blind memorandum concerning
above information was furnished State Department by Name
Check Section in 2-55.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
DeLoach _____
McGuire _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

WNP:wlg
(5)



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-29-97 BY SP3BJT/ra

MAY 29 1959
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/11/59

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-0)

SUBJECT: NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE
SM-C

There is enclosed herewith for the Bureau's information a copy of a letter from WFO to Los Angeles dated 4/27/59 regarding the passport application of captioned subject. It is noted that according to the Passport Office of the State Department, the Bureau has, or has had, an interest in COLE. It is also noted that COLE allegedly resides at 401 South Muirfield Road, Los Angeles.

Los Angeles indices do not reflect information that can be identified with NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE. The current telephone directory does not list the name, although it possibly could be a non-published telephone number.

The Bureau is requested to search the name through its indices for any previous information or interest the Bureau may have had in the subject. If further attention is desired in this matter, Los Angeles or other interested offices should be advised and WFO should review the passport file on subject.

UACB, Los Angeles is conducting no investigation at this time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-27-97 BY SP2/BJ/ku

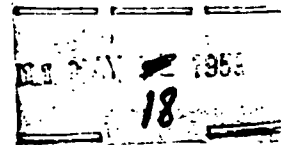
- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 1)
- 1 - WFO (100-35968) (Info)
- 1 - Los Angeles

MMB:SCM
(4)

let to LA
5-23-59
WNP/wlg

REC-53

4-113



b7C

SAC, LOS ANGELES

4/27/59

SAC, WFO (100-35968)

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka
SM - C
(OO:LA)

The information concerning COLE's passport was referred to WFO by the Legal Division, Passport Office, Department of State, because of information in the State Department files indicating that the Bureau has, or has had, an interest in COLE. The information in this letter is the information furnished by the State Department. WFO has not reviewed the file and will not unless you specifically request it. The accuracy of the information has not been verified by WFO personnel. The file usually contains a picture which will be copied if you desire and request it.

The Legal Division, Passport Office, advised that COLE was issued Passport #1327739 on 3/11/59, at Los Angeles. On the application for this passport he stated he was born 3/17/19, at Montgomery, Alabama. His current address is 401 South Muirfield Road, Los Angeles, Calif. On his passport application, filed 3/6/59, COLE denied present and past CP membership.

COLE intended to depart from New York on 3/27/59, by Pan American Airways for 7 to 8 weeks in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Columbia and Mexico for the purpose of entertainment - theatrical. RUC.

②-Los Angeles (RM)
1-WFO

CEG:bsb
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-3-97 BY SP3BJC/pw

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 1959	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

100-35968-7
ENCLOSURE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, WFO (100-35968)

SUBJECT: NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka
Nat King Cole
SM - C
(OO:LA)

DATE: 5/27/59

Remylet, 4/27/59, and LAlet 5/11/59.

67C COLE's passport file was reviewed by
SA [REDACTED] at the Passport Office, Department of
State, on 5/20/59, and the following information was
obtained therefrom.

CURRENT PASSPORT

COLE was issued passport #1327734 on 3/11/59,
based upon an application dated 3/6/59, at Las Vegas, Nevada.
This passport was for travel to Puerto Rico, Venezuela,
Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Mexico and Colombia, for
a period of seven to eight weeks. The purpose of the trip
is a theatrical entertainment trip. In his application,
COLE denied present or past Communist Party membership.

PREVIOUS PASSPORTS

COLE was issued passport #342195 on 8/25/50 to
depart from New York about 9/1/50, for a six-week concert
tour to England. This passport was renewed to be valid
until 8/24/54. He indicated he intended to depart from
New York, 3/19/54, for a six-week business trip as a
performer to England, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland,
Sweden, Italy and Norway. On 12/30/54, COLE was issued
passport #33112 (San Francisco series) for a three-week
entertaining trip to Australia, to depart Los Angeles about
12/31/54.

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Name:
Also known as:
Date of birth:

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE
NAT KING COLE
3/17/19

REC-23

100-379300

12 MAY 28 1959

2 - Bureau
2 - Los Angeles (RM)

1 - WFO

TCR:lss


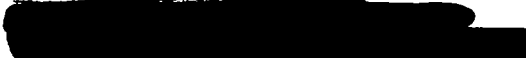
55(5) JUN 4

17
1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-29-92 BY SP3 BTJ/ku

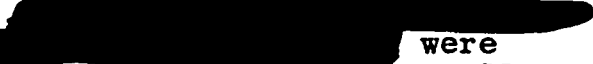
SUB CONTROL

WFO 100-35968



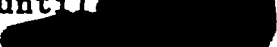
Place of birth: Montgomery, Alabama
Height: 6' 1"
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Occupation: Entertainer
Spouse:  b7C
Address: 401 S. Muirfield Road, Los Angeles, California
Father: 
Mother: PERLINA COLE (deceased)

SECURITY INFORMATION

The passport file contains no derogatory security information except a Bureau memorandum furnished to the State Department in answer to a name check request which reads, in part, as follows:

"A confidential informant of known reliability advised in 1945 that NAT COLE, who may be identical with the subject of your inquiry,  were members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time." b7C b7D

"A confidential informant of known reliability advised in August, 1949, that 'KING' COLE was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council)"

It is noted that in his passport application, COLE states his wife  and he did not marry her until  WFO is not aware if COLE had a former wife  b7C

It would appear that the presence of the Bureau memorandum in the passport file led the Passport Office to believe the Bureau had an interest in COLE. RUC.

11/13/57

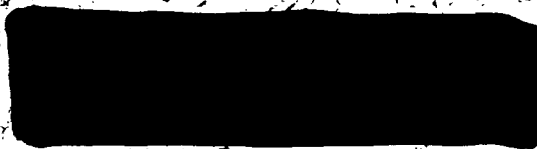
Dear Mr. Hoover:

In many years now my father has been telling me that "Nat King Cole" is a Communist and that he is no good and should leave his country. Mr. Hoover, I have the singing of Cole and want to get the record up once and for all. I have send me a letter telling me whether or not "Nat King Cole" is a Communist. I hope you can do this letter signed for me I know that the f. b. i. is good for the use of big men with lots of money but this is America and any body can inquire and receive the service of your work. Thank you very much again

3-
B

Nat King Cole

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-29-97 BY 12337/ra



b7c

Reseda California

REC-44 100-319380

DEC 15 1960

mul
Dec 13-60
1-12-60

if I could, I would like to have your autograph, I have a collection of them and would sure like to have yours. Thank you again

CORRESPONDENCE

TRUE COPY

11-27-60.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

For many years now my father has been telling me that "Nat King Cole," is a Communist and that he is no good and a disgrace to his country. Mr. Hoover I love the singing of Cole and want to get this cleared up once and for all. Please send me a letter telling me weather or not "Nat King Cole, " is a Communist. I hope you can do this little request for me I know that the f.b.i. is just for the use of big men with lots of money but this is America and anybody can inquire and receive the services of your work. Thank you very much again

Yours
Truily



Reseda California.

b7C

P. S.

Sir if I could, would you send me you autograph, I have a Collection of them and would sure like to have your's thanks again.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-3-97 BY SP3 BTJ/r

*none
ack 12-6-60 P.S.
Dec 1960
T.C.
12-5-60/1960*

EX-120
REC-44

100-379380-9

December 6, 1960

b7C

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted] b7C

Your letter dated November 27, 1960, has been received.

Although I would like very much to answer your inquiry, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any individual. I regret that I cannot help you and hope you will not infer in this connection either that we do or do not have the specific information you desire.

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
DEC 6 11 16 AM '60

In response to your request, I am glad to send you this letter bearing my signature.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

J. Edgar Hoover

b7C
DCL
P/S

MAILED 9
DEC - 7 1960
COMM-FBI

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Nat "King" Cole, the colored singer, [Redacted] were members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood at that time according to a confidential informant of Bureau of known reliability. As of August, 1949, Cole was a member of the Music Division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (The National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited by the HCUA).

- Tolson
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Belmont
- Callahan
- DeLoach
- Malone
- McGuire
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter

When applying for a passport for a theatrical entertainment trip through South America on 3-11-59, in his application, Cole denied present or past Communist Party membership (62-60527-42205 and 100-379380).

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-29-97 BY SP3 BTJ/ew

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 18, 1961

FROM : [REDACTED] b7C

SUBJECT: NAT "KING" COLE

Tolson _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Belmont _____
 Callahan _____
 DeLoach _____
 Malone _____
 McGuire _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
 Gandy _____

PURPOSE:

Mr. Tolson requested a file check on Nat "King" Cole the singer. It is pointed out that we have a main file on Cole as well as approximately 100 See references. In the interest of expediency review has been limited to a review of Cole's main file and recent See references.

BACKGROUND DATA:

Nat "King" Cole was born Nathaniel Adams Coles on March 17, 1919 in Montgomery, Alabama. He began his career as a pianist and in 1939 formed a trio and while playing the piano in a California club started to sing and is now better known as a singer of popular jazz music. He has capitalized on his voice and now earns approximately \$400,000 a year from records. Cole was the first Negro to host his own TV show starting in 1957. In 1937 Cole married [REDACTED] but this marriage ended in divorce. In 1948 he wed singer [REDACTED]. He has two daughters and is active in the fight for equal rights for Negroes. Cole is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He resides in Hollywood, California. (Celebrity Register)

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

No investigation has been conducted by the Bureau concerning Cole, however, files reflect the following salient information.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in 1945 that Nat "King" Cole [REDACTED] were then members of the Communist Political Association in Hollywood.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised in August, 1949, that "King" Cole was a member of the music division of the Southern California Chapter of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council (Hollywood Arts, Sciences, and Professions Council) [REDACTED]

62-1 Mr. DeLoach
 [REDACTED] b7C
 DGH:dau (7)
 Jan

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2-27-97 BY SP3BTJ/KW

(Continued, next page)

5 JAN 26 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

b7C

██████████ to DeLoach
Re: NAT "KING" COLE

The National Council of Arts, Sciences, and Professions has been cited as a communist front by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

A Salt Lake City criminal informant advised Bureau Agents on February 21, 1955, that ██████████ Las Vegas, Nevada, informed him, the informant, that ██████████

b7C
b7D Nat King Cole was appearing at the hotel in the Copa Room as the star ██████████

b7C ██████████ Nat King Cole discontinued his engagement at the Sands for personal reasons. ██████████

It will be recalled that in April, 1956, while appearing in Birmingham, Alabama, Cole was attacked by a group of men, reportedly members of the North Alabama Citizens Council. The attack took place in Municipal Auditorium and the assailants were prosecuted in local court and sentenced to one hundred eighty days in jail.

By personal letter to the Director dated October 8, 1957, SAC Salt Lake City advised as follows.

b7C Nat King Cole is presently performing at the Sands ██████████

██████████ there were many complaints received from citizens and suggestions that The Sands be closed. (100-379380)

The "New York Herald Tribune" of May 4, 1960, contained a story concerning the "Committee to Defend Martin Luther King." The committee was described as a group formed to raise money to help Dr. King fight an income tax evasion indictment in the state of Alabama. A pretext telephone call by Agents of

b7C
[redacted] to DeLoach
Re: NAT "KING" COLE

the New York Office ascertained that this committee was at 372 West 125 Street and that Nat King Cole was the treasurer. (100-40377-326)

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

GRC
1/19

[Signature]

[Signature] 1/19

V.

1/19

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-379380)

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-29226)

SUBJECT: CHANGED

DATE: May 8, 1961

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE, aka
Nat King Cole
SM - C

OO: Los Angeles

The title is marked CHANGED to record the correct name of NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE for the subject according to passport records.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight (8) copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding NAT KING COLE, the well-known colored musician and band leader.

Enclosed for Washington Field Office is one (1) copy of the above letterhead memorandum.

Sources referred to in the memorandum are as follows:

Paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 are based on data from the passport record of the State Department made available by Washington Field Office's memo of May 27, 1959, and FBI Liaison with State on March 30, 1961.

Paragraph 6 concerning COLE'S reported membership in the Communist Party (CP) and Communist Political Association (CPA) in Los Angeles in 1944 - 1945, was furnished in 1945 by [REDACTED] b2, b7D

Source referred to in paragraph 7 was former [REDACTED] one time CP functionary at Los Angeles.

EX-139

REC-88

one time
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-30-77 BY SP3BTD/je

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 8) (REGISTERED)
1 - Washington Field Office (Encl. 1) (100-35968)
(Info) (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

MMB:kfw
(4)

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

MAY 15 1961

SUB CONTROL

50 MAY 23 1961

b3

LA 100-29226

b2
b7D
are [redacted] Negative sources referred to in paragraph 8

Reference is made to Bureau letter to Los Angeles and Washington Field Office dated May 25, 1959, noting that COLE has never been the subject of a Bureau investigation, and that no action was desired by the Bureau at that time.

This matter is in closed status at Los Angeles.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California
May 8, 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE

NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE is the well-known musician and band leader who is better known under his professional name of NAT KING COLE. Information which appears in COLE'S passport file at the Passport Office, Department of State, as on May 20, 1959, reveals the following:

He was issued Passport Number 342195 on August 25, 1950, to depart from New York about September 1, 1950, for a six week's concert tour to England. This passport was renewed to be valid until August 24, 1954. He indicated he intended to depart from New York, March 19, 1954, for a six week's business trip as a performer to England, France, Denmark, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, and Norway. On December 30, 1954, COLE was issued Passport Number 33112 (San Francisco series) for a three week's entertaining tour to Australia, leaving Los Angeles about December 31, 1954.

On March 11, 1959, COLE was issued Passport Number 1327734 based on an application dated March 6, 1959, at Las Vegas, Nevada, for travel to various South American countries for seven to eight weeks on a theatrical and entertainment tour. In his application, COLE denied present or past Communist Party membership.

This last passport was renewed March 2, 1961 at Los Angeles, California, the application indicated COLE

DECLASSIFIED BY: SP3 BTJ/ew
ON 5-30-97

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

U.S. / A
REQ. REC'D 4/12/62
MAY 1962
ANS.
BY: [Signature]

100 -

ENCLOSURE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

expected to leave Los Angeles by Pan American Airways, May 5, 1961, for a trip of three to four weeks to Japan, Phillipines, and Hong Kong for business and pleasure. His address is given as 401 Muirfield Road, Los Angeles, his date and place of birth as March 17, 1919, at Montgomery, Alabama.

b7C
b7D

In 1945, a confidential source furnished information to the effect that NAT COLE [REDACTED] were affiliated with the Communist Party (CP) or Communist Political Association (CPA) at Los Angeles during the period 1944 - 1945, probably attached to one of the CP's so-called cultural groups in Hollywood. However, it was also indicated that COLE was on tour a considerable part of the time; and no particular CP activity on his part was known to informant.

In 1951, another source, now deceased, who was once personally acquainted with COLE, recalled that sometime during the early 1940s, NAT KING COLE was brought around to see the source by a motion picture actor who was known to the source as an old time CP member. The purpose of the visit was to arrange for COLE to receive instruction in Marxism. The arrangement was not carried through, however, for the reason that it was decided that the source who was to be the instructor was colored, and NAT KING COLE, although himself colored, was at the time associating almost exclusively with white "progressives".

Confidential sources who are currently connected with the Professional-Cultural Section of the CP and who have some information regarding their membership and activities, advise they have no information that NAT KING COLE is affiliated with the CP organization at Los Angeles, nor have they heard him referred to in any CP meeting as though he might be a member or even sympathetic to the Party.

A physical description of COLE as noted from the passport record of the State Department is as follows:

Name	NATHANIEL ADAMS COLE
Also known as	Nat King Cole
Date of birth	March 17, 1919
Place of birth	Montgomery, Alabama

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Height
Hair
Eyes
Occupation
Spouse

6 feet 1 inch
Black
Brown
Entertainer

Address

Father

Mother

Los Angeles, California
EDWARD JAMES COLE
1412 Greenfield Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
PERLINA COLE
(deceased)

b7C
b7D

The above information was received from confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A) | <input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B) | <input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(3) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3) |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(4) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(5) | <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9) | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (b)(6) | | <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7) |

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-379380 NR 3-30-61

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX[illegible]

NY 43 (REV. 9/22/59)

PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE LOG

b2

SUBJECT: CP USA

CODE #: [REDACTED]

DATE: 3-2-64

SHIFT: _____

AGENTS ON DUTY: _____

TEAM: _____

SYNOPSIS

OBSERVED: _____

NOT OBSERVED: _____

CONTACT MADE: _____

MEMO PREPARED: _____

UNUSUAL ACTIVITY: _____

INDEXING NEEDED _____

CASE AGENT: _____

YES () NO ()

FILE #: 100-4931-

b7c

57-14

(FOR CASE AGENT ONLY)

UNUSUAL OR SIGNIFICANT
CONTACTS AND LOCATIONS

CHANNELIZATION
MEMO PREPARED: _____

(INITIALS)

NAME

ADDRESS

TIME

NO CHANNELIZATION
NECESSARY

(INITIALS)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-30-97 BY SP3 BTJ/2

365844

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAR 5 1964	
FBI - NEW YORK	

Time Reel Cut

b2, b7D Date 3-4-64

b7C

[redacted] will be there he is a Trotskyite lawyer and [redacted] we got them on Discrimination. Because these guys will have money.

One other thing that will be pulled soon is that about 200 people going into the Coffee shop and sit down (Inaudible)

They want to pull this off in the E. River Jail.

The only ones that will pull this off in the Union is Blackfield and myself.

b7C

[redacted] Are you a member of the Union now. [redacted] will take \$50.00 back to get me reinstated. [redacted] had a technical ability because I am an old timer in the Union.

b7C

[redacted] well I am not interested in using the Negro Issue or the Negro people to further the Union or Local 6. We can't afford to turn the Negro's against us.

b7C

[redacted] well a couple years ago in the West Coast Riana Washington was singing at O'Haros

b7C

and we thru a ticket line up there. [redacted] and others and I. I was working at the Union taught then.

There were 75 tickets on the line, Nat King Cole in the line it was 100 tickets years ago

Riana Washington was singing and [redacted] herself.